

**To:** Progeess, Christina[Progeess.Christina@epa.gov]  
**From:** Hanley, Jim  
**Sent:** Mon 8/17/2015 6:52:05 PM  
**Subject:** Call today with Hestmark and Murray

Bill set up this call with Martin to discuss Standard. This should be an opportunity to discuss restarting work on Level 3. I hope you can join.

James Hanley

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Powell, Jodi" <Powell.Jodi@epa.gov>  
**Date:** August 17, 2015 at 12:38:33 MDT  
**To:** "Moncino, Keith" <moncino.keith@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** "Hanley, Jim" <Hanley.James@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Possible shut down??

Keith,

There is a call at 3:00 our time to discuss Standard Mine. I was told by my director, there will be some sort of RA work that will continue on the site. We should know today what that will entail. I will keep you posted.

Jodi Powell

Project Officer

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 8

1595 Wynkoop

Denver, CO 80202

(303) 312-6715

**From:** Moncino, Keith  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 13, 2015 6:41 AM  
**To:** Powell, Jodi  
**Subject:** FW: Possible shut down??

**From:** Williams, Bradley C. [<mailto:Bradley.Williams@hdrinc.com>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 13, 2015 8:38 AM  
**To:** Moncino, Keith  
**Subject:** Possible shut down??

See below...I haven't heard anything on

## **McCarthy: EPA Takes "Full Responsibility" For Colorado Mine Spill.**

EPA Administrator McCarthy said Wednesday that her agency takes "full responsibility" for the release of millions of gallons of toxic mine waste" at Colorado's Gold King Mine last week, the [Farmington \(NM\) Daily Times](#) (8/13, Smith, Garrison) reports. McCarthy said that "internal and independent reviews of the incident are underway and mine remediation operations throughout the country are being scrutinized to ensure they are being safely performed," adding that "the waters in La Plata County, Colo., have returned to pre-incident safety levels, and EPA staff are at Lake Powell in Arizona to monitor the impact as the plume of pollution arrives there." Said McCarthy, "Mine waste is under control at this point, as far as I know. ... The mine is being managed. My job is to manage the agency and the response and to ensure everyone that we will be fully accountable."

Kayna Whitworth reported on [ABC World News](#) (8/12, story 6, 1:30, Muir) McCarthy said "the situation is improving." McCarthy: "The levels have returned to pre-event conditions." Whitworth added that state officials have given "the green light tonight to begin treating and using water from the Animas River." Scott Pelley similarly reported on the [CBS Evening News](#) (8/12, story 8, 1:50, Pelley) that water quality in the river "is said to be back to what it was before three million gallons of toxic waste spilled last week," but "the worries have not been washed away." Mireya Villarreal added that while there has been "a lot of talk about making all of these Colorado mines a superfund site with the EPA...our experts say that solution probably isn't the best one because the government just doesn't have enough money to fix, treat, and then maintain all of these mines."

Lester Holt noted on [NBC Nightly News](#) (8/12, story 5, 2:10, Holt) that the spill "spark[ed] fears that this is merely one of many more disasters waiting to happen." Miguel Almaguer that many are calling it "the canary in the coalmine," adding that there are "more than half a million abandoned mines across the country, 1,500 in the Animas River watershed alone." Many "are still leaking toxic metals into rivers and streams."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/13, Harder, Berzon, Subscription Publication) says that in the wake of the Colorado accident, the EPA has suspended investigative field work at mine sites across the country. McCarthy said in a directive that the EPA is instructing its regions to stop such work "unless there is imminent risk."